

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

PHIL TRIGIANI

Appln. No.: Continuation of
09/557,831

Previous Group Art Unit: 3751

Filed: March 12, 2001

Previous Examiner: J. Jacyna

For: APPARATUS FOR DETECTING LEAKS IN A PRESSURIZED AIR
CONDITIONING OR REFRIGERATION SYSTEM

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March 12, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Kindly enter the following amendments and consider the
following remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, after the Title, delete:

"This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S.
Patent Application 09/535,368, filed March 24, 2000, now
pending, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated
by reference and relied upon."

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and replace with:

C) 7/13/01 --This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent
U.S. Patent 6,253,810,
Application 09/557,831, filed April 26, 2000, now pending,

which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application

a) which is a continuation of U.S. Application 09/003,021, filed Jan. 5, 1998, now U.S. Patent 6,050,310, which is
09/535,368, filed March 24, 2000, now U.S. Patent 6,186,197, continuation
in-part of U.

C) 7/13/01 the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by Patent Application
08/710,486, filed Sep. 18, 1996, now U.S.
reference and relied upon.-- Patent 5,826,636

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-12.

Kindly add new claims 13-17, as follows:

1 --13. A canister for charging a closed, pressurized air
conditioning or refrigeration system with a fluid,
comprising:

a2 a) a closed, non-pressurized cylindrical canister,
wherein said canister has two ends, a first open end
which connects to the system being charged and a second open
end, and

wherein said first open end comprises a nozzle;

b) a predetermined amount of said fluid,

wherein said fluid is selected from the group consisting of a lubricant, a fluid dye for said air conditioning or refrigeration systems, and combinations thereof, and

wherein said fluid is maintained in said canister at about ambient pressure; and

c) a piston sealably disposed with said second open end of said canister,

wherein said canister is adapted to sealably and releasably connect to said pressurized air conditioning or refrigeration system via fluidly coupling means to form a closed binary system,

wherein said fluidly coupling means is a connector assembly having a first end connected to said nozzle of said canister and a second end connected to a service valve of the pressurized system;

wherein said connector assembly comprises:

- i) a flexible conduit,
 - ii) a thread on a first end of said flexible conduit, to engage with said nozzle of said canister,
- and

iii) a release valve on a second end of said flexible conduit, to engage with the service valve of the pressurized system, and wherein said connector assembly further comprises a valve at one end of said flexible conduit, which prevents any material from back flushing into and contaminating said fluid in said canister.

a² 2 14¹ The canister of claim 13¹, wherein said canister is fabricated out of transparent material and includes a plurality of gradient markings; and wherein said nozzle is threaded.

3 15² The canister of claim 14², wherein said first open end comprises a threaded cap for engagement with said threaded nozzle.

4 16¹ The canister of claim 13¹, wherein said piston further comprises an O-ring.

5 17¹ The canister of claim 13¹, wherein said piston further comprises a recessed double O-ring.--

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended, claims 1-12 have been canceled, and new claims 13-17 have been added.

More specifically, the specification has been updated to show the prosecution history of the parent patent applications. A replacement page with the replacement paragraph is attached hereto.

Claims 1-12 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 13-17. The new claims correspond to issued claims 1-5 in parent U.S. Patent 6,186,197. The expression "wherein said fluid is selected from the group consisting of a lubricant, a fluid dye for said air conditioning or refrigeration systems, and combinations thereof" has been added to new claim 1 (step b). Specific support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 3, lines 19-20. A clean copy of the new claims is included in the attached Appendix. Thus, no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

TRIGIANI--CONTINUATION OF U.S. PATENT APPLICATION 09/557,831

Should any matters remain in this application which might be resolved by interview, the Examiners is requested to telephone the undersigned at 570-386-5744.

Respectfully submitted,

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